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Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-sixth session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Aleg **Yermalovich** (Belarus)

Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019
(*Item 3 (b) (ii)*)

Programme 9
United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

1. At its 12th meeting, on 7 June 2016, the Committee considered programme 9, United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019 (A/71/6 (Prog. 9)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the proposed strategic framework, contained in conference room paper E/AC.51/2016/CRP.1/Rev.1.

2. The Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa introduced the programme and together with other representatives of the Secretariat responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Delegations welcomed the complex and ambitious nature of the programme and expressed their support for it, recognizing the important role it played in coordinating the efforts of the United Nations system in support of development in Africa. Delegations made reference to processes such as the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, which engaged with the programme, and more generally to South-South cooperation initiatives, such as those in support of the response to the 2014 Ebola disease

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outbreak in West Africa. The systematic inclusion of measures to support the autonomy and empowerment of women in the programme was welcomed.

4. Some delegations considered Agenda 2063 a priority for the African Union. At the same time, some delegations recalled that, unlike the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), Agenda 2063 was neither a United Nations document nor had it been endorsed by the General Assembly and should, therefore, not be given the same weight as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which had resulted from a global process and had reason to be reflected in the proposed plan outline and strategic framework for the period 2018-2019.

5. The view was expressed that resources approved by the General Assembly for programmes such as NEPAD should be used to deliver on the goals and objectives outlined in approved mandates and relevant activities carried out by the appropriate offices. It was emphasized that in paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 69/313, the General Assembly had in essence supported the implementation of the Istanbul Declaration and Programme of Action and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024, and had reaffirmed the importance of supporting the new development framework and Agenda 2063. Clarification was sought as to whether that reference explained why Agenda 2063 had been included in the strategic framework of the programme.

6. It was pointed out that compared to other programmes, United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development was being carried out by three different entities, namely the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Department of Public Information. In that regard, the importance of strengthened cooperation between those entities was emphasized and further clarification on the coordination of work between those entities was sought.

7. On subprogramme 1, Coordination of global advocacy of and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development, clarification was sought on the formulation of expected accomplishments (a) and (d), which made reference to "Increased international community support" and "Increased international awareness", respectively. The corresponding indicators of achievement made reference to an "Increased number" of activities or visits to relevant websites. It was suggested that the language of those expected accomplishments be modified to read "Improved" rather than "Increased", in order to ensure coherence between the expected accomplishments and the indicators of achievement.

8. Concerns were expressed regarding how the priorities under Agenda 2063 had been reflected in paragraphs 9.4 in the overall orientation and paragraph 9.12 under subprogramme 1. Further, clarification was sought on how the priorities could be more directly linked with NEPAD activities. The choice of the priorities was questioned, and clarification was sought as to their mandate. Moreover, the fact that there were no references to "good governance" or "democracy" in those paragraphs reflecting the programme's priorities raised concern.

9. Concerns were raised and clarification sought regarding the impact of specific obstacles that had impeded the implementation of the work of the subprogramme during the period 2014-2015, and whether those could be reflected and identified within the strategic framework for the period 2018-2019. Additionally, details were requested regarding specific obstacles that had impeded the work of the

subprogramme in relation to overcoming the Ebola disease outbreak and improving conditions within Africa.

10. A delegation expressed its support for Africa's development through its cooperation with the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and the African Union Commission as part of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development process and also recognized the importance of the priorities of Agenda 2063. The same delegation further stated that implementing Agenda 2063 was not a mandate of the United Nations and that the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 should not have been addressed equally in the programme narrative since, while the 2030 Agenda was global, Agenda 2063 was only a mandate for the African Union.

Conclusions and recommendations

11. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that, in order to achieve its objective of assisting Member States in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals, the programme is realigned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, in line with established procedures.

12. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 9, United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019, subject to the following modifications:

Overall orientation

Paragraph 9.4

Replace the last sentence with "Like the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Agenda 2063 and its first 10-year implementation plan, which covers the period 2014-2023, take a people-centred approach that aims to ensure that no one is left behind by emphasizing, inter alia, agriculture, health, education, infrastructure development, good governance and respect for human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment, nutrition, peace and security.".

Subprogramme 1
Coordination of global advocacy of and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

Strategy

Paragraph 9.12

Replace the last sentence with "It will endeavour to raise international awareness of Africa's development issues through its policy, review, analytical, monitoring and advocacy activities in areas that are major African priorities and that are central to the continent's transformative development agenda, including, inter alia, agriculture, capacity-building, diversification of economies, youth empowerment, food security and nutrition, industrialization, infrastructure development,

including energy, health, peace and security, good governance and respect for human rights, all with a focus on gender equality and women's empowerment.".

Subprogramme 2
Regional coordination of and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

Objective of the Organization

Replace "and its Agenda 2063" with "and Agenda 2063".

At the end of the objective, insert ", in coherence with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda".

Expected accomplishments

Replace expected accomplishment (a) with "Enhanced coherence, coordination and cooperation among United Nations agencies and organizations, within the context of PAIDA".

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator of achievement (a) with "Increased number of joint projects implemented by the United Nations organizations, through PAIDA and in the context of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa".

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Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019
(*Item 3 (b) (ii)*)

Programme 8
Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

1. At its 11th meeting, on 6 June 2016, the Committee considered programme 8, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019 (A/71/6 (Prog. 8)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the proposed strategic framework, contained in conference room paper E/AC.51/2016/CRP.1/Rev.1.

2. The representatives of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Delegations expressed general support for the programme and emphasized the importance of the role of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States in monitoring, reporting on and implementing the programmes of action, including graduation from the least developed country category. Delegations commended the Office on the strategic articulation of the special needs of countries in that category by mobilizing and coordinating international support and resources, and by undertaking advocacy work in partnership with development partners and the relevant parts of the United Nations system.

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4. Clarification was sought on whether the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (para. 8.3) included any reference to the landlocked developing countries.

5. There was a reiteration of the complementary contribution of South-South cooperation to the development of the three groups of countries. Clarification was sought on how the programme had helped to translate that into reality.

6. Clarifications were also sought on whether any General Assembly resolution underpinned the provisions in paragraph 8.5 (g) on maximizing synergies among the three subprogrammes.

7. Clarifications were sought on the implementation of the decisions arising from the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, notably how the Office would incorporate the provisions of the outcome document of the Midterm Review into the strategic framework for the period 2018-2019 and, more specifically, how to facilitate the operationalization of the technology bank. Several delegations enquired as to what kind of technical and financial support would be required from the Office for the operation of the technology bank for least developed countries. Clarification was sought on whether governing and monitoring bodies had been set up and if Member States had approved that initiative.

8. Some delegations called for a modification of language under subprogramme 1, Least developed countries, notably indicator of achievement (b) (ii), on the implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access, questioning whether those issues fell within the mandate of the Office. Clarification was sought on the effectiveness of indicator of achievement (a) (ii) relating to the "increased number of visits by unique end users to the website". Furthermore, a delegation noted that, with regard to indicators of achievement (c) (i) and (c) (ii), there was a need to strengthen the indicators and incorporate measures to address the needs and challenges of least developed countries and others.

9. Under subprogramme 2, Landlocked developing countries, clarification was sought on whether the Office did in fact have a mandate to undertake research and present policy recommendations on the impact of "landlockedness" on economic growth and the effective participation of landlocked developing countries in international and regional trade (para. 8.7 (e)).

10. Under subprogramme 3, Small island developing States, questions were raised concerning the undertaking of a comprehensive midterm review on the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, in the absence of a decision by the General Assembly on the matter. In addition, concerns were expressed regarding the premature nature of the inclusion of the text in paragraph 8.8 (e) and the inclusion of resolution 70/202 in the list of mandates ahead of any decision on the way forward by the Assembly.

11. Clarification was sought on progress achieved by countries in meeting the criteria for graduation from the least developed countries category since the adoption of the Istanbul Programme of Action in 2011. Further questions were raised on how graduation brackets could improve in the future.

12. Clarification was sought on whether any resource mobilization strategy had been undertaken by the Office and why no references could be found to those activities in the strategic framework. Clarification was also sought on whether a donor fund existed for crisis situations arising in least developed countries.

Conclusions and recommendations

13. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that, in order to achieve its objective of assisting Member States in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals, the programme is realigned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, in line with established procedures.**

14. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 8, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 8.5 (c)

Replace "ensure" with "promote".

Subprogramme 1
Least developed countries

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Replace expected accomplishment (b) with "Effective implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and other internationally agreed development goals related to the least developed countries, greater commitment from least developed countries and increased international support for graduation".

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator of achievement (b) (ii) with "Increased number of development partners supporting least developed countries in implementing the provisions of the Istanbul Programme of Action".

Add a new indicator of achievement (b) (iii) reading "Increased number of development partners supporting least developed countries in meeting the graduation criteria, in line with the principles of the Istanbul Programme of Action".

Subprogramme 2
Landlocked developing countries

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator of achievement (b) (i) with "Increased number of initiatives implemented by landlocked developing countries and transit countries that aim at improving sustainable development and inclusive

growth, including trade facilitation and transport systems, diversification of production and export bases and integration into regional and global value chains".

Add a new indicator of achievement (b) (iii) reading "Increased number of development partners supporting landlocked developing countries in implementing the provisions of the Vienna Programme of Action".

Strategy

Paragraph 8.7

Replace subparagraph (d) with "Contributing to global follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, as well as advocating for effective linkages and synergies between that follow-up and review process and that of the Vienna Programme of Action".

Replace subparagraph (e) with "Undertaking research and analysis on the impact of "landlockedness" on sustainable development, economic growth and the effective participation of landlocked developing countries in international and regional trade, and developing policy recommendations".

Subprogramme 3
Small island developing States

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator of achievement (b) with "Increased number of development partners that pledge support for small island developing States, including through the climate change financing mechanisms, such as the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility and the Climate Investment Funds".

Replace indicator of achievement (c) with "Increased number of joint programmes and activities by development partners, the United Nations system, the private sector, academia and non-governmental organizations, including triangular cooperation with South-South development partners, that have an impact on small island developing States, including capacity-building workshops, and technical and financial assistance".

Strategy

Paragraph 8.8 (e)

Replace the existing text with "Supporting Member States in the review of the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and identifying ways of accelerating its implementation."